

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /072 W

-----092232Z 001149 /75

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1696

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO INTENSIFY
ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE STORMONT JUNE 8 SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON ANNOUNCED NEW MEASURES TO INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY PROVISIONAL IRA TERRORISM, IN PROVINCE. MR. MASON ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT, DESPITE DECLINE IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS, PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WERE DISSATISFIED WITH PROGRESS OF SECURITY FORCES. MEASURES INCLUDED: (A) MORE SPECIALIST TROOPS FOR "SAS-TYPE (SPECIAL AIR SERVICE) ACTIVITIES" (B) ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) WOULD SOON HAVE 10 DIVISIONAL MOBILE SUPPORT UNITS (300 MEN, 60 VEHICLES) FULLY OPERATIONAL, (C) STRENGTH FULL-TIME ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) WILL BE INCREASED BY 700, MAKING 2500 "PROFESSIONALS" ON DUTY, (D) PROPOSALS TO ENACT LAWS INCREASING PENALTY FOR CONSPIRACY TO MURDER FROM 20 YEARS TO LIFE, FOR EXPLOSIVES OFFENSES (BOMB MAKING) FROM 20 YEARS TO LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP IN PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS FROM FIVE TO TEN YEARS, (E) INCREASE OF RUC STRENGTH (EVENTUALLY) BY 1200 TO 6500, (F) FREEING OF 200

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POLICEMEN FOR OPERATIONAL DUTY BY REPLACING THEM WITH CIVILIANS IN OFFICE DUTIES, (G) RUC TO BE PROVIDED WITH M-1 CARBINES AND ARMORED VEHICLES.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEWS MR. MASON STRESSED THAT NEW MOVES FOLLOWED SUGGESTIONS BY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS PUT IN "CONSTITUTIONAL

MANNER." HE DENIED THAT RECENT LOYALIST GENERAL STRIKE WAS FACTOR AND SAID IAN PAISLEY HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE ONE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL ON SECURITY MEASURES. SECSTATE EMPHASIZED THAT ROLE OF ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES HAD CHANGED FROM TIME WHEN STREET VIOLENCE REQUIRED MASSIVE NUMBERS OF TROOPS. NEED NOW THAT TERRORISTS ARE "ISOLATED" IS FOR SPECIALLY-TRAINED EXPERTS IN INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS. HE REJECTED NOTION OF REINTRODUCTION DETENTION EVEN ON LIMITED SCALE AND EMPHASIZED INSISTENCE THAT SECURITY FORCES ACT WITHIN THE LAW. HE ALSO CALLED FOR POLITICAL LEADERS TO SUPPORT SECURITY FORCES.

3. LOCAL POLITICIANS GENERALLY WELCOMED MEASURES WITH SPOKESMEN FOR OFFICIAL UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE PARTIES CLAIMING PORTIONS OF NEW MEASURES AS THEIR PROPOSALS. IAN PAISLEY AND ERNEST BAIRD WELCOMED "ANY" NEW INITIATIVES ON SECURITY, RESERVED "WAIT - AND - SEE" POSITION ON EFFECTIVENESS AND CLAIMED SECURITY MOVES FORCED BY LOYALIST STRIKE. PAISLEY CALLED FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AS ONLY EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST LEADER HARRY WEST AGREED WITH HIM. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) WHILE NOT RPT NOT REJECTING PROPOSALS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS. JOHN HUME IN PARTICULAR DEPLORED APPARENT CONCENTRATION ON PROVISIONAL IRA TERRORISM WHILE OTHER TERRORISTS LARGELY IGNORED. SDLP IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT "SAS" TYPE ACTIVITIES IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES.

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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ISecure: 1
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